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7-17-02IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEApplicant: Roy A. BLACK *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/244,984

Filing Date: February 4, 1999

Examiner: M. Zeman

Art Unit: 1631

Title: *CRYSTALLINE TNF- α -CONVERTING
ENZYME AND USES THEREOF*

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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R §1.111Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed in the above-captioned case on January 11, 2002. Petition is hereby made for a three-month extension of time, up to and including July 11, 2002. A check is attached in full payment of all fees believed due in connection with the present submission. If the amount is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to make appropriate charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Applicants request reconsideration and reexamination of their application, in light of the following revisions and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 43, 45-55 and 64-65, without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend the following claims:

63. (Amended) A method of identifying a compound that associates with tumor necrosis factor- α -converting enzyme (TACE), comprising (A) using atomic coordinates that comprise the coordinates of Table 1 or a substantial part thereof to design an associating compound that forms a bond with a catalytic domain of a TACE polypeptide, and (B) determining via computer-generated models whether said compound associates with said catalytic domain, wherein said substantial part comprises atomic coordinates of regions selected from the group consisting of the S1' region, the S1'S3' pocket and atoms which bind a catalytic zinc.